Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00449 120151Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0449

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, UN, JA

SUBJ: POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN TOKYO

REF: STATE 029677

- 1. DURING MEETING WITH JAPANESE PERMREP SAITO FEB 11 I STRONGLY EMPHASIZED US CONCERN ABOUT HOLDING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN TOKYO.
- 2. I STRESSED THAT AS SCARRED VETERAN OF ONE SUCH MEETING OUTSIDE NEW YORK EXPERIENCE SHOWED THAT THERE NO WAY TO CONTROL SUCH A MEETING ONCE IT STARTS. WE WOULD NOT WANT CLOSE JAPANESE-US RELATIONS TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY UNCONSTRUCTIVE SC DEBATE ON ISSUES SUCH AS VIETNAM, CAMBODIA OR KOREA WHICH COULD LEAD TO STRONG US REACTION, EVEN VETO. I WOULD TAKE STRONG STAND ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES EVEN THOUGH I WOULD REGRET NECESSITY IN VIEW JAPAN HOSTING MEETING.
- 3. I POINTED OUT THAT THERE NO LOGICAL SUBJECT TO WHICH MEETINGS COULD BE DIRECTED WHICH DID NOT GET INTO HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL AREAS. ONE-SIDED FORMULAS COULD BE INJECTED BY CHINESE OR SOVIETS INTO DISCUSSIONS OF EVEN SUCH A BLAND SUBJECT AS "SITUATION IN ASIA", THUS CONVERTING MEETING INTO PROPAGANDA EXERCISE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00449 120151Z

4. SAITO SAID HIS MISSION WAS AWARE OF UN INTEREST IN

HOLDING SC MEETING IN ASIA, AS FOLLOW-UP TO MEETINGS IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA, BUT SAID HE AND HIS MISSION WERE NOT ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THIS POSSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH INDONESIA'S REP SANI HAD SUGGESTED JAPAN CONSIDER IDEA.

5. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS GLAD TO HEAR HE HAD MADE NO RECOMMENDATION AND HOPED HE WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ON ISSUE. ONCE SUCH AN IDEA BEGINS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE CORRIDORS IT TENDS TO GATHER A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN, SOMETIMES MAKING TIMELY ADVANCE DISCUSSION DIFFICULT. JAPAN, AS SUGGESTED POTENTIAL HOST, SHOULD BE PREPARED TAKE FIRM POSITION QUICKLY WHICH WE HOPE WOULD FULLY TAKE US CONCERN INTO ACCOUNT.

6. SAITO SAID HE APPRECIATED MY COMMENTS, WOULD TREAT THEM AS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL AND REPORT THEM TO TOKYO IMMEDIATELY.

7. COMMENT: SAITO IS DISSEMBLING WHEN HE CLAIMS NO JAPANESE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENCOURAGING TALK ABOUT SC MEETING IN TOKYO. HIS SUBORDINATES HAVE ALREADY INDICATED GOJ INTEREST IN FOSTERING GREATER PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR JAPANESE ASPIRATIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN UN.

8. HOWEVER, I HOPE THIS FRIENDLY CONVERSATION AND AMB BUFFUM'S TALK WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON WILL HELP TORPEDO APPARENT JAPANESE FLIRTATION WITH IDEA. SAITO APPEARED SURPRISED AT VIGOR OF AMERICAN OPPOSITION.

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